

**Columbia University**  
**in the City of New York**

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DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
The University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh,

I guess, Josh, I'm just not as intellectual as Norm. We obviously made a bad choice of a word but, under the circumstances, what Norm suggests is silly. Since "prototrophic" will still be used, despite his spleen, I, too, do not propose to engage in an MGB polemic.

I'm glad you are happy Tom is with you and hope you both have a very productive year. Although Phyllis is no Tom, she does resemble Lil in many good ways. I'm pleased to have her with me and she is taking hold fast. Lil and Stan are now at Chalk River and the place strikes them as o.k.

Alaska, for Betty and me, was terrific. We had a good time visiting Hez and Marge Shaw in Fairbanks. I think Hez's reaction against the place stems from his being bored stiff at the airbase. Hez is a true intellectual while, as I said before, I'm a physical type. And it is true the interior is not as lovely as the seacoast. What really bowled me over was the fishing --- thirty-six-inch salmon for the taking. Betty was stunned by the birds, many of which come from Africa and Asia to breed in the summer. The large mammals were also ubiquitous (as were mosquitoes) and the mountains, tundra, forests, rivers, and seacoast, glorious. We know just where we're going to homestead when I throw in the towel. We sold our car up there, came by boat along the inland passage-way to Seattle and flew home. Temperatures up there were ca 55° to 70° night and day---a delight. When we got back to New York, we went into solution. Just starting to cool off again.

Best to Esther and Tom.

Sincerely,



Francis J. Ryan

FJR:kk